



Billinge-and-Winstanley Urban District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT of the Medical Officer of Health for 1938.

To the Chairman and Members of the Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Seventh Annual Report on the health and sanitary condition of your district.

Public Health Officers of the Authority:—

(a) James S. Mather, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., Medical Officer of Health.

(b) James J. Perkins, A.R.S.I., Sanitary Inspector.

Both are part-time officers.

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in Acres) ...	...	...	...	...	...	4,591
Registrar General's Estimate of Resident Population, mid 1938 ...	...	...	...	...	...	5,740
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1938) according to Rate						
Books ...	...	...	...	...	...	1,514
Rateable Value ...	...	...	...	...	...	£21,575
Sum represented by Penny Rate ...	...	...	...	...	...	£81

No material change is to be reported in the social conditions, industries and extent of unemployment in the district. Some men find employment at the few small collieries surviving locally, others again at the brickworks, and terra cotta works, and others as agricultural labourers, whilst a growing population of black coat workers such as clerks and shop-assistants must now be also included as an integral part of the employed population. Of the fraction remaining unemployed a certain smaller fraction may be regarded as unemployable, and likely to be a permanent fixture in the present competitive regime. The Cotton Industry continues to find steady employment for a proportion of the womenfolk.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

		Total.	M.	F.
Live Births—	Legitimate ...	80	42	38
	Illegitimate ...	1	1	0
		—	—	—
	Total ...	81	43	38

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population of the district ... 14.1

Other live Birth Statistics, introduced for purposes of comparison with above:—

	Total.	M.	F.
Live Births in district during 1937 ...	75	34	41
Live Birth Rate for 1937 ...	...	13.3	per 1,000
Average Rate for the last 5 years (1933-37) ...	...	13.8	per 1,000
Live Birth Rate for England and Wales during 1938 ...	...	15.1	per 1,000

	Total.	M.	F.
Still Births	1	0	1
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births			12
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births for England and Wales in 1938			38

	Total.	M.	F.
Deaths	57	26	31
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ...			9.9
Adjusted Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population			9.9

Other Statistics for comparison are:—

	Total.	M.	F.
Deaths in district during 1937 ...	63	31	32
Death Rate for district in 1937		11.2	per 1,000
Mean Death Rate for district during five years (1933-37)		11.4	per 1,000
Death Rate for England and Wales in 1938 ...		11.6	per 1,000

The Death Rates for the individual Wards, calculated on the census figures of population, are:

Billinge Chapel End	13.4	per 1,000
Billinge Higher End	8.4	per 1,000
Winstanley	14.2	per 1,000

Deaths from Puerperal Causes:—

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births.
Puerperal Sepsis	1	12.19
Other Puerperal Causes	1	12.19
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	2	24.39

Death Rate of Infants under One Year of Age:—

All Infants per 1,000 live births	86
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 live births	87
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil

Other statistics for comparison:—

Number of deaths of infants per 1,000 live births in district in 1937	66
Mean number of infantile deaths in district per 1,000 live births for five years (1933-37)	67
Infant mortality per 1,000 live births for England and Wales in 1938	53

The distribution of the infantile deaths in the district was as follows:—

Billinge Chapel End	Billinge Higher End	Winstanley
5	2	Nil
Deaths from Measles (all ages)		Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)		Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)		Nil

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

(a) Laboratory facilities:

- (i) Pathological specimens are submitted to Dr. W. E. Cooke (Royal A. E. Infirmary, Wigan).

Five specimens were submitted during the year, all being throat swabs for diphtheria.

- (ii) Specimens of water, milk, etc., are submitted to the Liverpool City Laboratories for bacteriological examination and to the County Analyst for chemical examination. The reports on these are included in the appropriate sections to follow. In all, the following examinations were undertaken under this head:—

Bacteriological—7.

Chemical—1.

(b) Ambulance facilities.—These are satisfactorily arranged as follows:—

Accident Cases and Emergencies.—Wigan Police Ambulance.

Public Assistance Hospital Cases.—Wigan P.A. Ambulance.

Infectious Diseases.—Ashton-in-Makerfield U.D.C. Special Ambulance.

(c) Nursing in the home.—Provided by the local Nursing Association. The success of the scheme only so recently inaugurated is eloquent testimony of the appreciation of the public, and the efficiency of the nurse.

(d) Clinics and Treatment Centres.—There is one Maternity and Child Welfare Centre in our area. This is held at the Conservative Club, Main Street, on Wednesdays, from 10-0 a.m. to 12 noon, under the direction of Dr. Gawne. The School Clinic, situated at Orrell, answers for the older children. Both are provided and controlled by the County Council.

(e) Hospitals—Public and Voluntary :

- (i) Wigan Infirmary.

- (ii) Wigan Borough Public Assistance Hospital, Billinge.

- (iii) Ashton-in-Makerfield Fever Hospital (for cases of Scarletina, Diphtheria and Enteric Fever only).

- (iv) Smallpox Hospital provided by Local Authority for cases occurring in the district. Has not been used for many years and is quite out of date.

SECTION C.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

(i) **Water.**—Forsaking the original project for a reservoir at least temporarily as a result of the financial liabilities to be incurred, the Council devoted themselves to augmenting the water reserves of the district by deepening the Whittle Shaft. During the latter part of the year and into the early months of the present year this work has continued, and at its conclusion, necessitated by risk of subsidence in the shaft, a further thirty-five feet had been added, making a total depth of available water of one hundred and ten feet. What this extra depth means in terms of extra reserve can only be inferred at this stage, but it will indeed be disappointing if we have not thereby added at least ten million gallons. This at the present rate of consumption is equivalent to a further three months supply which should guarantee the district against the driest summer. No sample was taken of the water for qualitative tests during the year because its use was greatly curtailed by the work. Previously the bacteriological examinations have revealed a high state of purity. An improvement in the chemical results may alike be looked for when next it is sampled since much organic and inorganic debris has been removed.

One of the pumps is being overhauled and its length will be increased appropriately before replacing. Protection against damage from subsidence is also being effected by encasing it in a perforated steel cylinder and by repairs to the shaft, which is now reported in excellent condition. During the winter months the district has been served almost entirely from Upholland and Cob Moor. The latter source, it may be remembered from the previous reports, is in constant danger of pollution and the two samples taken during the year were true to type in this respect, as shown:—

Bacteriological Results.

Date	Description	BACTERIA per CC.		B COLI	Total Coliform Organisms
		AT 37°C	AT 22°C	PER 100 CCS.	PER 100 CCS.
27/10/38	No ; B. 204 Cob Moor Pumping Station Billinge	20	188	50	50

Fortunately, now all our water is chlorinated, and the beneficial effect of this is demonstrated by the following report on a sample taken subsequently from the service tank.

Bacteriological Results.

Date	Description	BACTERIA per CC		B COLI	Total Coliform Organisms
		AT 37°C	AT 22°C	per 100 CCS.	per 100 CCS.
7/11/38	Cob Moor Pumping Station	4	4	0	0

(ii) **Drainage and Sewerage.**—There is nothing to note in the way of change in this section. The system of broad irrigation is still the main method of treating the sewage, though a portion of the Winstanley sewage is now discharged into the Wigan Sewers adjoining. Once again, one may observe in passing that the whole question will probably soon have to be considered with a view to extension or alteration to accommodate the increase brought about by the conversion scheme and the increase in the number of houses.

Rivers and Streams.—There is little risk of gross pollution of the streams in the district from effluent.

Closet Accommodation.—Fifty conversions per year were planned in the original scheme to clear the district of privy middens in five years. Last year twenty-eight were converted; this year only thirteen, leaving two hundred and nine still unconverted. This, in a total of nine hundred and fifty-five houses in the district at the 1931 census, means that one quarter of the houses standing at that time are still provided for in this primitive fashion, for the newer houses are, of course, without exception provided with w.c. accommodation. The recent augmentation of the water reserves will facilitate the completion of the scheme with safety if finance is equally favourable.

Closet Accommodation at end of 1938.

Privy Middens:—No. of Middens	...	...	...	209
No. of Closets attached to these Middens	...	...	...	356
No. of Pail Closets	...	...	...	4
No. of dry Ashpits (excluding Middens)	...	...	...	Nil
No. of Movable Ashbins	...	...	...	629
No. of houses on Water Carriage system	...	...	...	711
No. of Fresh Water Closets	...	...	...	722
No. of Waste Water Closets	...	...	...	Nil

Conversions:—

No. of Privy Closets to Fresh Water Closets	...	...	13
No. of Privy Closets to Fresh Water Closets during last five years 1933-1937	...	...	74
No. of Pail Closets to Fresh Water Closets	...	..	Nil
No. of Pail Closets to Fresh Water Closets during five years 1933-1937	...	...	Nil
No. of Privy Closets to Pail Closets	...	...	Nil
No. of Privy Closets to Pail Closets during five years 1933-1937	...	...	Nil

Public Cleansing.—There is no alteration in the arrangements under this head, the covered horse drawn cart introduced two years ago answering well the purpose. That the system of tipping is far from ideal need hardly be re-emphasised.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.—Vide Sanitary Inspector's report.

Shops.—The Shops Act 1934 relating to ventilation and temperature of shops and to sanitary conveniences and the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to conditions in offices, i.e. ventilation, sanitary conveniences, etc., are administered by the County Council. The Sanitary Inspector visits all premises included within the meanings of the Acts and reports to the County Council.

Smoke Abatement.—There has been no necessity for action in the matter of smoke abatement. The factory chimneys are kept under observation by the Sanitary Inspector during his routine patrol of the district.

Swimming Baths and Pools.—There are no public or privately owned swimming baths or pools in the district.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.—No houses were found infested and disinfection was not necessary. When it has been previously, it has been carried out by the Local Authority using formaldehyde gas. This, though not so effective as hydrocyanic acid gas, is much safer to use and, as far as this district is concerned, has been sufficient. With regard to the belongings of those moving into Council Houses, much tact is required in dealing with the people. The Council are not disposed to favour over forceful routine methods. The Sanitary Inspector, therefore, has kept an informal watch during the transfer to the new houses to prevent obviously infested articles being taken. Such as are found are burned if of fabric, whilst furniture is sprayed with liquid zaldecyde, and zaldecyde insect powder is spread plentifully into the crevices and niches.

Schools.—The two schools in the district are old and hardly up to modern requirements. Nevertheless, pending the building of more modern schools, they answer the requirements well, and infectious disease has remained at a discount. There has been no need for either school closure or individual exclusions during the year. The water supply is satisfactory.

SECTION D.

Housing.—For several years building has been going on apace, so that whereas at the Census in 1931 there were 955 houses in the district, there are now, at the end of 1938, 1,514 according to the rate books. During the year under review, however, there has been a decline in the building figures. In 1937 a total of 91 houses were erected: thirty-four of these by the Council, and fifty-seven by other bodies or persons. In 1938 only twenty-three have been completed, and all privately. This decline may be accounted for in two ways. No doubt a saturation point so far as private building goes is being approached, but the disturbed international state also quickly reflects itself both in public and private building, and although the Council have since completed the erection of 12 houses for slum clearance purposes, it must be admitted that other more immediately vital considerations have claimed priority of attention in the latter months of the year and delayed progress in other ways.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during Year:—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	173
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	291
(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	...	...	...	...	57
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	64
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	10
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	47

2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices:—

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	116
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year:—

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	24
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By Owners	24
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	Nil

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By Owners	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	Nil

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act 1936:—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	25
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	25

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil

4. Housing Act, 1936, Part IV.—Overcrowding:—

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	39
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	48
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	299
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	6
(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	Nil
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	Nil
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	Nil
(e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report	

It will be seen on comparing the figures with those of last year that there is an actual increase in the number of overcrowded houses—39 as compared with 33. This increase, found at a census of the Council Houses, is due to a natural increase in large slum families barely satisfactorily accommodated previously. The remedy lies in appropriate building. Overcrowding has not yet received the attention it warrants in the Council's Housing programmes.

SECTION E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) **Milk Supply.**—There are 35 Cowkeepers (including dairy farms) and 11 Milk Purveyors (other than Cowkeepers) on the register, and 75 inspections have been made during the year. The premises are generally satisfactory. Four samples of milk were submitted for bacteriological examination on behalf of the Local Authority during the year. All were satisfactory as to cleanliness and free from tuberculous infection. In addition, samples were taken as requested for the County Council from the supplies to the local schools. One licence only under the Milk (Special Designations) Order has been issued, this being in respect of the retail distribution of pasteurised milk. There are no production or bottling plants within the area.

(b) **Meat and Other Foods.**—There are no slaughter-houses within the district.

All places in which food is prepared or stored have been inspected, but no sanitary defects have been found, nor has any infectious disease been reported in connection with them.

The following table is compiled from information submitted by the Sanitary Inspector, whose duty it is to inspect the carcasses of animals killed in the district for human food.

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number Killed					50
Number Inspected					50
All Diseases except Tuberculosis:					
Whole Carcasses condemned					Nil
Carcasses of which some part of the organ was con- demned					Nil.
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuber- culosis	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Tuberculosis Only:					
Whole Carcasses condemned					Nil.
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned..					Nil.
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis					Nil.

SECTION F.

Prevalence of, and Control Over, Infectious and Other Diseases.

General Infectious disease has not been very prevalent during the year. Faucial Diphtheria occurred sporadically during the first three-quarters and Scarlet Fever in mild epidemic form in the last quarter in Billinge Higher End.

One case of Puerperal Pyrexia occurred as a result of Broncho-Pneumonia which brought on labour prematurely and proved subsequently fatal, death being certified as due to Pneumococcal Septicæmia.

Chicken Pox was made notifiable for six months from August 21st because of the reported occurrence of Small Pox in Wigan. Two cases only were notified during the time.

Influenza has remained fairly well in abeyance throughout the year.

Infectious Disease	Billinge Chapel End		Billinge Higher End		Winstanley	
	No. of Cases	Rate per 1,000 of population	No. of Cases	Rate per 1,000 of population	No. of Cases	Rate per 1,000 of population
Erysipelas	1	0·46	0	0·00	0	0·00
Diphtheria	1	0·46	3	1·25	2	3·53
Pneumonia	3	1·38	1	0·42	0	0·00
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	0·46	0	0·00	0	0·00
Scarlet Fever	0	0·00	6	2·51	0	0·00
Chicken Pox	0	0·00	2	0·84	0	0·00
Total	6	2·76	12	5·02	2	3·53

The above table shows the distribution of the individual infectious diseases in the respective Wards. In general it is surprisingly similar to that of last year, especially so in revealing the predominance of Scarlet Fever in Billinge Higher End.

A stock of Diphtheria Antitoxin is kept by the Medical Officer of Health and is available to local practitioners for treatment in suspected as well as in actual cases of the disease.

Immunising Alum Precipitated Toxoid is also provided on request as in previous years, but in the absence of a definite scheme no call was made for it.

The personal contact between the head teachers of the local schools and the Medical Officer of Health has again been satisfactorily maintained in regard to infectious troubles among the children.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) During the Year 1938.

Notifiable Diseases	Total Cases		TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED.												65 and over	HOSPITAL		
	at all Ages	Under	Years													Total Deaths Admitted to Hospital. from District.	Deaths in Hospital of Persons Belonging to District.	
			1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65					
Scarlet Fever ...	6	0	0	0	1	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0		
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	6	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	5	0		
{ Acute Primary Pneumonia	4	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	6				
																	{ Acute Influenza Pneumonia	
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	
Erysipelas.....	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	
Smallpox ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Other Diseases	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
generally notifiable—																		
Other Diseases	2	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
notifiable locally—																		
Enteric Fever ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Totals	20	0	1	1	1	1	8	1	4	1	0	0	2	9	9	0		

During the year, as during the past five years, hospital accommodation for local cases requiring isolation has been economically and most satisfactorily provided at the Ashton Fever Hospital.

On March 31st of the present year the five year agreement came to its end, but we have been fortunate in getting it extended on a yearly basis until such time as a mutually satisfactory scheme is evolved for the constituent authorities of Area XVII of the County Scheme in which this district is placed with Ashton, Hindley and Ince. When this is likely to be it is at present impossible to say, as all the meetings have so far ended in deadlock. The following alternative schemes have been under consideration:—

1. Provision of the minimum accommodation required by the County Council at the Ashton and Hindley Hospitals (the latter being extended for an additional 4 beds).
2. Hindley and Ince Districts to be allied to the Fall Birch Joint Hospital and withdraw from Area XVII and the Ashton and Billinge Districts to continue in their use of Ashton Hospital as the amended Area XVII.

The views expressed by the Lancashire County Officials indicate the non-acceptance of either of the foregoing schemes by the County Council.

The following alternative schemes, therefore, remain for consideration and agreement:—

3. The Four Districts named in the Scheme to mutually agree and to form a joint proposal to the effect that the accommodation required would be provided as follows:—

(a) Hindley and Ince Districts at Fall Birch, Horwich.—The extension necessary would be to accommodate 12 beds.

(b) Ashton and Billinge Districts at Ashton.

The expenditure incurred at Fall Birch to be apportioned on agreed basis between Hindley and Ince; the expenditure at Ashton on agreed basis between Ashton and Billinge.

4. Formation of Joint Board, and representatives appointed to have a mandate to support either of the following schemes:—

(a) Purchase of Ashton Hospital at a valuation made by an Independent Valuer—Extension of the Hospital to provide for the necessary 12 additional beds.

(b) Arrange for the necessary accommodation at Fall Birch Hospital. The Horwich Joint Board to afford the Ashton Joint Board agreed representation on the Fall Birch Hospital Board—Extension of the Hospital would be needed to provide for the necessary 24 additional beds.

Of these schemes, Ashton favour unreservedly 4a, whilst Hindley and Ince, contending that the Ashton hospital is badly placed both from the point of view of health by its proximity to a slag heap and also from risk of subsidence, are definitely averse and in favour of any alternative which will not engage them in expense there.

As for Billinge, whatever the ultimate outcome, it is certain we shall have to pay more dearly for treatment of infectious disease in this district.

A conservative estimate places the figure at £345 per annum. During the five years ending March 31st, 1939, we sent in all only 22 cases to hospital out of a possible 51, an average of a little over four per year, in an average total of 10 per year. If payment had been at the rate proposed this would have amounted to approximately £80 per case actually admitted and £34 per case potentially admissable—at least four times the present rate.

Cancer.—There has been a further decline in the number of Cancer deaths during the year, four only being registered as due to the disease. The subjoined table gives the site, age and sex of the deaths occurring in each Ward during the year with those of previous years.

Billinge Chapel End.				Billinge Higher End.				Winstanley.			
M	Age	F	Age	M	Age	F	Age	M	Age	F	Age
1934											
Prostate	37 yrs	Stomach	57 yrs.	Stomach	54 yrs.	Sigmoid	50 yrs.				
		Breast	43 yrs.	Colon	65 yrs.	Breast	56 yrs.				
		Stomach	71 yrs.								
		Breast	32 yrs.								
1935											
Pancreas	61 yrs.	Colon	64 yrs.	Rectum	73 yrs.	Breast	65 yrs.	Colon	61 yrs.		
Spleen	42 yrs.	Stomach	72 yrs.	Face	74 yrs.						
Stomach	74 yrs.	Stomach	61 yrs.								
1936											
Stomach 61 yrs.				Colon	69 yrs.	Liver	56 yrs.	Testis	32 yrs.	Bowel	86 yrs.
				Rectum 55 yrs.							
				Ovary 80 yrs.							
				Breast 84 yrs.							
				Face 72 yrs.							
1937											
Breast 56 yrs.				Colon	72 yrs.			Liver	84 yrs.		
Stomach 53 yrs.				Stomach	58 yrs.						
1938											
Stomach	64 yrs.	Liver	38 yrs.	Stomach	62 yrs.						
				Liver	66 yrs.						
Total 6 10				9 8				3 1			
16				17				4			
Mean Rate 1.48 per 1,000 per year				1.43 per 1,000				1.41 per 1,000			

The Cancer deaths during the years 1934-1938 are classified and tabulated below according to the site of affection and age distribution.

ORGAN AFFECTED.

Age Group	Total	Stomach		Colon		Rectum		Sigmoid		Liver		Prostate		Ovary		Breast		Face		Bowel		Spleen		Pancreas		Testis	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
25—35	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
35—45	4	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
45—55	3	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
55—65	13	4	2	1	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
65—75	11	1	2	3	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Over 75	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	1	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total	37	6	5	4	1	1	1	...	1	2	2	1	...	...	1	...	6	1	1	...	1	1	...	1	...	1	...

The predominant sites, as usual, in males are seen to be the stomach and colon; in females the breast and stomach; whilst the prevalent age groups are those above 55 years. The facilities provided by the National Radium Institute at Manchester are available for local cases considered suitable. One such case attends regularly with a measure of success.

Prevention of Blindness.—No action has been taken under Section 66 of the Public Health Act, 1925, for the prevention of blindness, or for the treatment of any persons suffering from any disease or injury to the eyes.

Tuberculosis.—No action was necessary under either the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925 (relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade), or under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925 (relating to the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis).

New Cases and Mortality during 1938.

The death rate from Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System for 1938 is 0.34 per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, as compared with 0.71 the previous year and a mean of 0.51 for the period 1933-1937.

Age Periods.	Years.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory.	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0— 1
1— 5
5—10	2	1	...	...	...	...
10—15	1	...	...	...	...	...
15—20	1	...	...	...	...
20—25
25—35	1	...	...	1	1	...	...	...
35—45	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
45—55
55—65	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
65 and upwards
Totals		3	1	3	3	1	1	0	0
		4		6		2		0	

The case and mortality distribution of Tuberculosis in the district during the period 1934—1938 is represented in the following tables:—

Case Distribution.—Pulmonary.

		Billinge Chapel End		Billinge Higher End		Winstanley
1934	.....	1	...	0	...	1
1935	.....	2	...	1	...	2
1936	.....	1	...	2	...	3
1937	.....	2	...	2	...	0
1938	.....	1	...	3	...	0
		—		—		—
Total	.....	7	...	8	...	6

Mean Rate per 1,000 population ... 0.65 ... 0.67 ... 2.12

Non-Pulmonary.

		Billinge Chapel End		Billinge Higher End		Winstanley
1934	.....	4	...	1	...	1
1935	.....	1	...	1	...	2
1936	.....	2	...	1	...	1
1937	.....	0	...	1	...	1
1938	.....	4	...	1	...	1
		—		—		—
Total	.....	11	...	5	...	6

Mean Rate per 1,000 population ... 1.01 ... 0.42 ... 2.12

Mortality Distribution.—Pulmonary.

		Billinge Chapel End		Billinge Higher End		Winstanley
1934	.....	1	...	0	...	0
1935	.....	2	...	1	...	1
1936	.....	1	...	1	...	0
1937	.....	1	...	1	...	2
1938	.....	0	...	2	...	0
		—		—		—
Total ..	.....	5	...	5	...	3

Mean Rate per 1,000 population ... 0.46 ... 0.42 ... 1.06

Non-Pulmonary.

		Billinge Chapel End		Billinge Higher End		Winstanley
1934	.....	1	...	0	...	0
1935	.....	0	...	0	...	0
1936	.....	0	...	1	...	0
1937	.....	0	...	0	...	0
1938	.....	0	...	0	...	0
		—		—		—
Total	.....	1	...	1	...	0

Mean Rate per 1,000 population ... 0.09 ... 0.08 ... 0.00

The subjoined Table gives the Numbers on the Register on December 31st, 1938.

Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary.	
M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
13	3	7	10	20	13
				Total	33

The notification of Tuberculosis in the district is efficient, though there was one non-notified Tuberculosis death.

This was in respect of a man, of no fixed address, who died in Billinge Hospital and whose death was found later to be accountable to this district because his last settled place of abode was given as in Scotland. The death is included in the table above.

SECTION G.

Factories and Workshops Act, 1901.—For the most part the law relating to Factories is administered by the Home Office. All the Workshops and Workplaces on the register have been inspected, and matters demanding attention have been dealt with. No complaints, as remediable under the Public Health Acts, have been received from H.M. Inspector of Factories, nor has any breach of the Factory Act been reported to him. The subjoined is a list of the Factories and Workshops on the register:—

2 Bakehouses.	1 Shoeing Smith.
2 Sawyers.	5 Coal Mines.
2 Cloggers and Boot Repairers.	2 Stone Quarries.
3 Builders and Joiners.	2 Brick and Tile Works.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

J. S. MATHER

Medical Officer.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT, 1938.

To the Chairman and Members of the Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit herewith my 16th Annual Report for your consideration.

Nuisances.—The number of nuisances under the Public Health Acts investigated during the year totalled 116, made up as follows: Structural defects 94, drainage defects 19, and defects in sanitary accommodation 3.

All these nuisances were abated after informal action, no formal notices being required in any case.

206 visits of inspection were made in respect to these nuisances.

Slum Clearance.—Up to and including December 31st, 1938, 75 houses have been demolished, of which 25 were demolished during the current year; 9 have been allowed to stand for other purposes, the owners having given an undertaking not again to let the premises for human habitation.

This leaves 56 houses on the list, including those in respect of which the owners have given an undertaking to make the premises fit for human habitation.

Conversions from Privy Ashpits to W.C.—There have been 13 conversions to the Water Carriage system during the year, your Council making a grant of £3 10s. 0d. towards the cost in each case.

Milk Regulations.—There are 46 Cowkeepers and Dairywomen registered in your district, viz.: Producers and retailers 19, wholesale producers 6, producers for own use 10, retail purveyors 11. There is also one licence in use for retailing Pasteurised Milk, the pasteurising plant being situate in the County Borough of St. Helens. There is no licence in force in respect to Grade A and Certified Milk. 9 samples of milk and 4 samples of water were taken and submitted for examination during the year.

Meat Regulations.—The only notifications under these regulations was in respect to pigs, of which 50 were received. All carcases were inspected and found to be clear of disease.

As there is no public slaughter-house in your district, most of the pigs bred in the district are conveyed alive to Wigan for slaughter.

Petroleum Acts.—There are 13 licenses in force for storing petrol, 1 license having lapsed. All are in respect of underground tanks. Also 1 license to store calcium carbide.

No breach of the regulations has been noticed.

Bakehouses.—There are two bakehouses in your district, both of which have been frequently visited and always found to be clean and satisfactory.

New bye-laws made by the County Council will come into force shortly in respect to the above.

Smoke.—Factory chimneys are kept under constant observation during the routine patrol of your district.

No excessive smoke emission has been observed during the year and no complaint has been received of the same.

Infectious Disease.—9 persons suffering from Infectious disease were transferred to Ashton-in-Makerfield Isolation Hospital during the year. The Bedding, Clothing and Premises of the patients were disinfected by the persons in charge of ambulance.

9 persons suffering from Infectious disease were transferred to Ashton-in-Makerfield Isolation Hospital during the year. The Bedding, Clothing and Premises of the patients were disinfected by the persons in charge of ambulance.

In 8 other cases, disinfections were carried out by ourselves.

I am pleased to report that there are no underground and cellar dwellings, underground bakehouses, common lodging houses or offensive trades situate within your district.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES J. PERKINS,

Sanitary Inspector.

30, 2014

10, 2014

10, 2014